

# Graduate Student Research Day 2010

## Florida Atlantic University

### COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

#### **Florida's Definition and Subsequent Calculations of a Public High School Graduate: A Critical Race Theory Analysis.**

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The purpose of this study was to investigate Florida's graduation rate calculation methods for AY 2004 - 08. In 1903, W. E. B. Dubois, a seminal African American scholar and sociologist, exemplified the immutable effects of racism as a factor in public education in relation to educational opportunities and outcomes. Unfortunately, the problem students of color faced in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, as Dubois found, remains unchanged more than 100 years later. Despite decades of education-based reform measures, the most recent being NCLB, children of color are still left behind in public schools across America. This study utilized Repeated Measures research designs and Analyses of Variance (ANOVAs) to determine whether a significant and consistent difference existed among Florida's public high school's graduation rates relative to student race and graduation rate calculation methods. Second, Critical Race Realism was used to analyze the quantitative findings of this study. Florida's public school districts served as the units of analysis for this investigation. The results revealed that significant differences exist within graduation rates relative to student race and graduation rate calculation methods. The results of three ANOVAs confirmed that consistent differences exist among graduation rates relative to student race and graduation rate calculation methods. There is a need to question social inequality, racism, and injustice. I believe such critical inquiry and reflection is needed if we are to successfully address the dissonance that occurs in classrooms in Florida and throughout the nation.